

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

GUENNADI EREMIN, declares:

FAX RECEIVED

MAY 20 2003

PETITIONS OFFICE

I am a citizen of Russia, whose post-office address is 353384 Krasnodar region, Krymsk-4, Shosse 8/A st.

I believe myself to be the original, first and sole inventor of the improvement entitled PRUNUS PLANT NAMED 'VSL-2' which is described in the specification filed on June 15, 2001 and illustrated in the drawings filed on January 11, 2002.

I have asexually reproduced the new and distinct variety.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims.

I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention or more than one year prior to this application; or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to this application.

Said invention has not been patented or been made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

No application for patent or inventor's certificate thereon has been filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint Russell D. Orkin, Registration No. 25,363; William H. Logsdon, Registration No. 22,132; David C. Hanson, Registration No. 23,024; Richard L. Byrne, Registration No. 28,498; Frederick B. Ziesenheim, Registration No. 19,438; Kent E. Baldauf, Registration No. 25,826; Barbara E. Johnson, Registration No. 31,198; Paul M. Reznick, Registration No. 33,059; John W. Melvaine, Registration No. 34,219; Julie W. Meder, Registration No. 36,216; Lester N. Forney, Registration No. 38,141; Randall A. Notzen, Registration No. 36,882; James G. Porcelli, Registration No. 33,757; Kent E. Haldorf, Jr., Registration No. 36,082; Christian E. Schuster, Registration No. 43,908; Dean E. Geibel, Registration No. 42,570; Nathan J. Prepelka, Registration No. 43,016; Jessica M. Schroth, Registration No. 47,102; Kirk M. Miles, Registration No. 37,891; J. Matthew Pritchard, (W0055617.1)

Registration No. 46,228; Gary F. Matz, Registration No. 45,504; Darrell E. Williams, Registration No. 45,222; Philip J. Foret, Registration No. 51,689; Alka A. Patel, Registration No. 49,092; James J. Bosco Jr., Registration No. 51,489; Alexander Detschelt, Registration No. 50,261; Patricia A. Olosky, Registration No. 53,411; and Gwendolyn R. Acker Wood, Registration No. 51,027, whose post-office address is 700 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818, Telephone No. 412-471-8815, my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, to amend the specification, to appeal in case of rejection, as they may deem advisable, to receive the patent when granted and generally to do all matters and things needful in the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as I could do.

All correspondence and telephone calls should be addressed to
Russell D. Orkin.

I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration
and power of attorney this 2 day of May, 2003.

Inventor

Gwendolyn R. Acker Wood
Gwendolyn R. Acker Wood

(W0053616.1)